

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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P.O. Box 127
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Date Issued: 8/30/12
Time: 1:00 p.m.

2012 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 40 **Fall Announcement # 34, District 2 Commercial Period 11** Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

District Y-2

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in District Y-2 on Friday, August 31 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. This will be a 4-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh.

For the entire District Y-2, no Chinook salmon can be sold during this commercial opening. Fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. **Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.**

The preliminary cumulative harvest for Y-2 through August 30 is 125,600 fall chum and 26,900 coho salmon.

By regulation, the fall chum salmon directed commercial fishery in the Lower Yukon River Districts 1 and 2 closes after August 31. The preliminary cumulative fall chum salmon commercial harvest for Lower Yukon River (Districts Y-1 and Y-2) through August 30 is 261,774 fish. Currently, this is the second largest commercial harvest of fall chum salmon on record and above the most recent 5-year (2007-2011) average of 87,400 fish. The preliminary cumulative coho salmon commercial harvest for Lower Yukon River (Districts Y-1 and Y-2) through August 30 is 64,081 and currently is the second largest commercial harvest since 1991.

The 2012 coho salmon run is currently being assessed as below average. Through August 29, coho salmon passage past the Pilot Station sonar project is 82,746 fish. This is below the historical median of 114,989 for that date. Any further commercial openings in Districts 1 and 2 will depend on improving coho salmon run strength.

In District Y-2 subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches. In District Y-2 subsistence salmon fishing will close at 2:00 a.m. Friday, August 31 and reopen at 6:00 a.m. Saturday, September 1.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A. The Emmonak Field Office will be closing for the season at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, August 30. For further information, please contact the Fairbanks ADF&G office at 459-7274.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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